Remarks

The allowance of claims 8, 19 and 20 is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner has rejected the remaining claims with primary reliance being had on Snelling et al. The previously advanced rejections are now moot in view of the amendment made to claim 1.

As amended, claim 1 recites a liquid level indicator comprising, *inter alia*, a processor that is operable to compare the difference between the outputs of the temperature sensors against a pre-set condition. This allows, for instance, an absolute temperature difference to be measured, whereby subsequent determinations can be made regarding the liquid level, as described in relation to Figures 13 and 14 of the present application (see pages 14 and 15 of the description).

For example, in relation to Figure 13 it is described that where the temperature difference is determined to be small in the sense that it is smaller than a pre-set condition, then this can be interpreted as an indication that the liquid level indicator or container is not in use. On the other hand, if the difference exceeds the pre-set condition, then this indicates that the level is at or below the level of the liquid level indicator.

Another way in which a comparison of the difference with a pre-set condition can be used enables a determination of whether or not the container is in use, this being described in relation to Figure 14.

Snelling et al. describes a liquid level detector system including a linear sensor, having a vertical longitudinal axis. The system described in Snelling et al. includes a heater 40 and a number of sensors 57, 65, 67 arranged within a housing 30 (see Figure 1 and paragraphs [0022]-[0024]). The sensor 57 is disposed between upper and lower sensors 56, 67.

If the temperature detected by the intermediate sensor 57 in Snelling et al. is between the temperatures detected by the upper and lower sensors 65, 67, then the elevation of the liquid upper surface is determined to be between the upper and lower ends of the sensor 57. Also, by comparing the temperature detected by the sensor 57 to the temperature detected by the upper and lower sensors 65, 67, a more specific detection of the liquid level is achieved (see paragraph [0068]).

Snelling et al., however, does not describe comparing the difference between the outputs of two temperature sensors against a pre-set condition. Accordingly, Snelling et al. is unable to make, for example, the advantageous determinations as to liquid level and container use as described above in relation to Figures 13 and 14 of the present application.

The other references applied by the Examiner do not overcome the above discussed deficiencies of Snelling et al. as a teaching reference vis-a-vis the subject matter of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable, as would the remaining claims which depend from claim 1 for at least the same reasons.

New claim 21 has been added to specify temperature sensors that measure "ambient" temperature. This is in contrast to Snelling et al. which describes a system in which temperatures are measured for liquid level detection after actuation of a heater (see, for example, the penultimate sentence of the abstract of Snellings et al.). Use of a heater may not be suitable for certain applications, and in particular it may not be suitable for measuring the level of a volatile liquid, which may be flammable.

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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